

WE CLAIM:

1. A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code which when executed causes a computer to design a sprinkler system for a building or a portion of a building having building elements, the sprinkler system having a plurality of sprinkler system elements, wherein the computer designs the sprinkler system by performing steps comprising:
  - prompting a user to provide information comprising a design area for the sprinkler system and a requirement of a standard related to at least one sprinkler system element;
  - receiving from the user information comprising the design area and the requirement of the standard related to the at least one sprinkler system element;
  - accessing from a memory operational characteristics for at least one of the sprinkler system elements;
  - accessing from the memory the requirement of the standard received from the user;
  - designing a layout for the sprinkler system within the design area, in a manner mandated by the requirement of the standard, and to avoid intersecting with the building elements; and
  - displaying on a computer display the layout for the fire extinguishing system.